



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
(602) 542-3578 FAX (602) 542-0466

Requirements for applying to take PCA exam in Arizona:

Effective January 1, 2005 a person applying for a PCA license shall possess:

1. A bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in the agricultural sciences, biological sciences, or pest management that includes 45 semester units as shown in the following table:

Area of Study	Semester Units	Quarter Units
Physical & biological sciences, such as introduction to inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, plant biology or botany, ecology, soils, irrigation, genetics, plant physiology, entomology, and zoology.	15	22.5
Crop health, such as vegetative management or weeds, plant pathology, entomology, plant nutrition or fertility, nematology, and vertebrate management.	12	18
Pest management systems and methods, with at least one course in pest management systems and one course in pest management methods. Pest management systems subjects include agricultural chemical applications, properties of pesticides, mode of action of agricultural chemicals, toxicology, environmental impact of pesticides, and biological control	9	13.5
Production systems, such as environmental horticulture, horticulture, ornamental horticulture, forestry, agronomy, crop science, vegetable crops, animal science, or other production systems.	9	13.5
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>67.5</b>

2. In the absence of a bachelor's degree, the candidate must possess 24 months of verifiable technical experience plus the same 45 credit hours outlined in the above chart.
3. The applicant must submit an official transcript verifying the courses completed and the degrees granted to the applicant.
4. Transcripts can be mailed to:

Or emailed to: [gchristian@azda.gov](mailto:gchristian@azda.gov)  
602-542-0903

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**R3-3-207. Agricultural Pest Control Advisor License; Examination; Fee; Renewal; Exemption**

- A. An individual shall not act as a PCA without a valid PCA license, issued by the Department. To advise in any of the categories listed in subsection (I), a PCA shall pass the specific examination associated with the category.
- B. An individual applying for a PCA license shall provide the following information on a form obtained from the Department:
1. Name, social security number, and signature of the applicant;
  2. Date of the application;
  3. Address, e-mail address, if applicable, and daytime telephone number of the applicant;
  4. License renewal period;
  5. Name, physical address, mailing address, e-mail address, if applicable, and daytime telephone number of the applicant's employer, if applicable;
  6. List, by category, the examinations that the applicant has passed; and
  7. Whether the applicant has had a similar license revoked, suspended, or denied in this or any other jurisdiction during the last three years, and the nature of the violation resulting in the revocation, suspension, or denial.
- C. Effective January 1, 2005, a person applying for a PCA license, except a person who holds or has held a PCA license in this state within the previous five years shall possess:
1. A bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in the agricultural sciences, biological sciences, or pest management; or
  2. Forty-five semester units (67.5 quarter units) of college-level curricula as shown in the chart in subsection (D) and 24 months of technical experience.
- D. The college-level curricula specified in subsections (C)(1) and (2) shall include at least 45 semester units (67.5 quarter units) as shown in the following table:

Area of Study	Semester Units	Quarter Units
Physical and biological sciences, such as introduction to inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, plant biology or botany, ecology, soils, irrigation, genetics, plant physiology, entomology, and zoology.	15	22.5
Crop health, such as vegetative management or weeds, plant pathology, entomology, plant nutrition or fertility, nematology, and vertebrate management.	12	18
Pest management systems and methods, with at least one course in pest management systems and one course in pest management methods. Pest management systems subjects include agricultural chemical applications, properties of pesticides, mode of action of agricultural chemicals, toxicology, environmental impact of pesticides, and biological control.	9	13.5
Production systems, such as environmental horticulture, horticulture, ornamental horticulture, forestry, agronomy, crop science, vegetable crops, animal science, or other production systems.	9	13.5
Total Units Required	45	67.5

- E. An applicant shall submit to the Associate Director an official transcript verifying the courses completed and the degrees granted to the applicant. In addition, an applicant qualifying under subsection (C)(2) shall submit employment records, a statement from an employer, or other similar proof of technical experience to the Associate Director.
- F. The applicant shall submit the completed application to the Department, accompanied by a \$50 fee.
- G. A PCA license is not transferable, expires on December 31, and is:
1. Issued for up to one year as an initial license;
  2. Renewed every one or two years, depending on the renewal period selected by the applicant; and
  3. Renewed for all categories of license under subsection (I) for the same renewal period.
- H. Renewal.
1. The continuing education requirement in subsection (H)(5) is not applicable to an individual who passes the examination prescribed in subsection (I) and who applies for a PCA license between October 1 and December 31 of the test year.

2. Upon renewal, a PCA license is valid for one or two years, depending on the renewal period selected by the applicant, provided the applicant meets the criteria prescribed under this subsection.
3. An applicant shall submit the completed application, accompanied by a \$50 fee for each licensing year or portion of the year during which the license is valid.
4. Renewal; expired license.
  - a. An applicant may renew an expired license without retaking the written examinations under subsection (I) under the following conditions:
    - i. The applicant complies with CEU requirements in subsection (H)(5),
    - ii. The applicant submits a completed application and fee within 30 days after the expiration date, and
    - iii. The applicant does not provide any pest control-related service from the date the license expired until the date the renewal is effective.
  - b. All other applicants for renewal shall retake the applicable written examinations prescribed in subsection (I).
5. The Department shall not renew a PCA license unless, before the expiration of the current license, the advisor completes 15 CEUs for each year of the renewal period or passes any applicable examination prescribed in subsection (I). An advisor shall complete CEU credit from January 1 through December 31. CEUs earned in a year that are in excess of the requirements do not carry forward for use in future years.
6. To obtain credit, the applicant shall provide the Department with documentation of completion of the CEU course.

I. Examinations.

1. The Department shall administer examinations by appointment at every Environmental Services Division office. In addition to the core examination required in R3-3-202, an applicant shall demonstrate knowledge and understanding of integrated pest management in any of the following categories by scoring at least 75 percent on a written examination:
    - a. Weed control,
    - b. Insect and mite control,
    - c. Nematode control,
    - d. Plant pathogen control,
    - e. Vertebrate pest control,
    - f. Plant growth regulators, or
    - g. Defoliation.
  2. An individual who fails the examination may retake it no more than three times in a 12-month period and shall not retake an examination until at least seven days have elapsed from the date of the last examination.
- J. Exemption. An individual operating in an official capacity for a college or university, providing recommendations in a not-for-profit capacity, or who merely furnishes information concerning general and labeling usage of a registered pesticide is not considered an authority or general advisor for the purposes of this Chapter.